

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Ho-62
Dist 2

MAGI # 14006243H

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Town Hall, West Ilchester

AND OR COMMON Rhodney's Emporium, The Opera House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 8044-8046 Main Street

CITY/TOWN

Ellicott City

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE Maryland

COUNTY

Howard

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER storage

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Andrew Bibo

Telephone #: 747-7302

STREET & NUMBER

1 1/2 Wade Avenue

CITY/TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21227**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Tax Map 25-A p.27

Liber #: 532

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Hall of Records

Land Access:

Folio #: 46

Bldg Access:

\$8050

STREET & NUMBER

Howard County Court House

Total Access: \$15,400

CITY/TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1977

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY/TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTIONHO-62
Dist 2

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Opera House was originally a four story high, four bay wide, three bay deep field stone structure with gabled roof (running east west) whose first floor is cut into the granite hill north of Main Street. Twin brick chimneys are inset into its east and west walls. Stretcher stone flat arched lintels decorate the original windows of the structure. An additional two story high brick east and west bay was added with frame third, fourth and fifth stories. In addition, a brick fifth story was added to the original stone structure with brick parapet on its south facade. The fifth story holds double-hung Romanesque windows. Each of these windows hold six-over-six lights decorated with flat wooden sills and stretcher brick roman arched lintels. Horizontal rectangular brick recesses are inset under each window. These additions occurred in 1857 for the present building and the west bay is indicated in 1860 on the Martinette Map. A second and third floor balcony and the additions on the east and west are indicated in a photograph of the building on the border of this 1860 Map. The west bay no longer exists. It has been replaced by one or two of the five two bay wide, four story high brick houses lying west of the old Town Hall.

The fenestration of the original first four floors of the building is rectangular, double-hung, holding six-over-six lights and decorated by projecting flat wooden sills.

Sometime before 1857 a further two bay wide addition was added to the north wall which can be seen on the second and third floors of the interior of the building. Mr. Bibo, the present owner, believes this wall may have been original, serving as a supporting wall. The second floor holds an interesting fireplace on the west wall of this addition which may at one time have been an outside fireplace. A tunnel is located on the east wall of this addition which goes out to the railroad bridge. See attached contact sheet.

A one story high, flat roofed, open porch runs along the entire south facade of the building with a cornice decorated with a row of egg and darts and brackets.

A second floor french door is located in the third east bay featuring four-four lights. At one time it led out to the second floor balcony already mentioned as being indicated on the 1860 Martinette Map. Presently used for storage and filled with second and third hand furniture and goods, it is in great need of renovation.

Its fifth floor is entirely taken up by a large stage, orchestra and balcony which no longer have their furniture. The original gas lamps in the building, however, still remain intact, as well as paneling, flooring and exceptionally wide first floor cooking fireplaces inset into the east and west walls of the original stone building. According to the owner, Mr. Bibo, this was used as the official stage coach stop by the Ellicotts.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

One of the most fascinating buildings in Ellicott City, it remains relatively undiscovered and is in need of total rehabilitation on the interior.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Circa 1780

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Opera House or Rodey's Emporium as it has been recently called was in the early days of Ellicott Mills located on a tract of land called "West Ilchester" and is referred to as recently as 1906 in a deed as the "Old Stone Tavern House." Owned by Jonathan Ellicott, it is believed to date back as early as the seventeen eighties.

In a plat of the property of Thomas Wilson dated 1875, the property is designated as the Town Hall Lot. In a Lithography of Main Street, dated circa 1832 it is shown as a four bay wide, four and a half story, gabled roof building with wide chimneys set into its east and west walls and three dormer windows placed on the south facade of its gabled roof which runs east-west. A second and third floor open porch runs along the front facade.

At some time in the mid eighteen hundreds Mr. Thomas Wilson acquired the property (probably from the Railroad with John H. B. Latrobe as trustee which had acquired a great deal of land in Ellicott City including the adjoining Patapsco Hotel lot). On July 1, 1857 it was leased by Thomas Wilson, owner, to John Schofield for a ten year period subject to annual ground rent of \$75 payable semi-annually on the first day of January and July. Mr. Wilson agreed to present Mr. Schofield with a "good and valid deed" on the receipt of \$1250 at any time during the period of the lease. (WHW 18-316).

It was during the time of the tenure of Mr. Schofield that the building's present appearance took shape for on the border of the Martinette Map of 1860 the present building with its romanesque windows and parapet is featured.

On June 27, 1867, at the termination of Schofield's lease, Michael and Evalina Bannon purchased the land and building from Thomas Wilson for \$1250, and one year later on November 28 conveyed the property to Isaiah and Harriet Wolfersberger for \$3,500 (28-516). A plat of Mr. Thomas Wilsons, dated 1875 and found in the Howard County Land Records, Liber 36 folio 482, indicates this property as the Town Hall Lot.

On the 13th of April, 1906 Edward B. Powell, trustee deeded the property "known as the Town Hall lot to John G. Rogers, (Howard County 82-35). The deed refers to the "western side of the wall of the Old Stone Tavern House", which is the west wall of the present building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Owned by Mr. Andrew Bibo, this property next to the B and O Railroad is the most significant property and building in Ellicott City. It ante dates the Patapsco Hotel and was used as a Town Hall. Later in the 1900's the fifth floor was used for 15¢ movies. During Schofield's ten year tenure it was used as an Opera House. John Wilkes Booth played here, noted theatrical personality of that day.

Presently in a fair condition, it should be placed on the National Register of Historic Buildings and totally restored and rehabilitated for use as an old tavern on the ground floor, a theater on the fifth floor and a museum on the second, third and fourth floors.

In the development of tourist generators for Howard County, Ellicott City and its historic landmarks are of primary importance. Those buildings located on the north side of Main Street (Please see Ho-62, Ho-68, Ho-86, Ho-88, Ho-89, Ho-90, Ho-94, Ho-97, Ho-98, and Ho-99) are of primary importance for they are zoned B-1, commercial use and presently house such uses as restaurants, antique and curio shops, barber and beauty shops as well as office space and apartment use. Of commercial and historical significance, the Opera House should be placed on the National Register and restored. The use of a restored Opera House as a potential tourist generator cannot be overemphasized. Time, money and creative ability are needed to initiate and complete this restoration project.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mr. Andrew Bibo at the Old Town Hall, August 23, 1977.
Howard County and Ann Arundel County Record Offices.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.15 Acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 25-A, p. 27

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records
Liber 532 Folio 46.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	Maryland	COUNTY	Howard
STATE		COUNTY	

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section 465-5000 x257

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

DATE

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

1400624311
Ho 325 62
115

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: <u>Bilbo's</u>				
AND/OR HISTORIC: <u>Rhodes's Emporium, earlier: Wayside House</u>				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>8044 Main Street</u>				
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Ellicott City</u>				
STATE: <u>Maryland</u>		COUNTY: <u>Howard</u>		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP	STATUS	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Public		<input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Bath	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure				Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
<input type="checkbox"/> Object				
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC				
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Shoe Shop</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: <u>Andrew Bilbo</u>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>8044 Main St</u>				
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Ellicott City</u>		STATE: <u>Maryland</u>		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <u>Clerk of the Circuit Court</u>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>Howard County Court House</u>				
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Ellicott City</u>		STATE: <u>Md</u>		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION

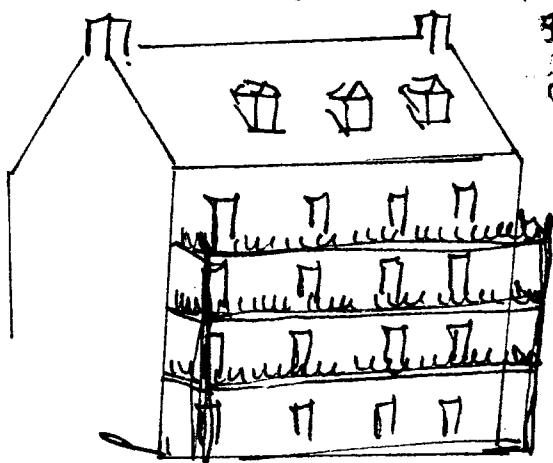
CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <i>Much</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Early drawings show a four-story and a half stone house facing south, 4 bays by 2 under a steep A-frame roof with 3 peaked dormers, and a four-story porch on the front-(south) ~~side~~, and a chimney inside each end wall.

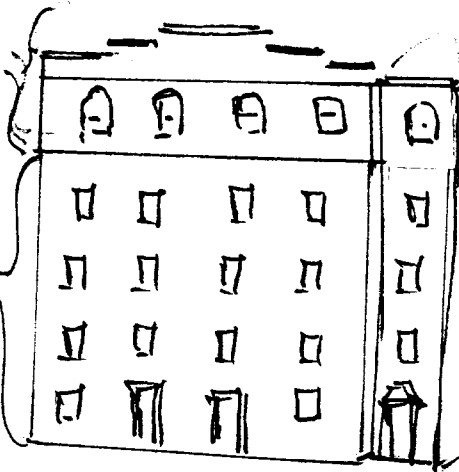
Now a fifth story of brick has added a large room - an opera hall - on the top floor, while a frame addition 1 bay wide adds a staircase at the east end. The roof, now "flat": has a stepped cornice over arched windows, as shown.

Other additions extend the building into the bank, and there is an entrance on each floor.



brick

stone



wooden stairwell

Wayside Inn

later Rhodys Emporium

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Now a junk shop, this large building built for a home, was added to back from the street, upwards to a fifth floor, and east for a frame staircase. The upper floor was one large "opera" ~~room~~ hall.

Located on the first federally-funded highway (Old National Pike, Frederick Road) it became the Wayside Inn. When the B & O ended its first construction of tracks a few yards away in 1831 this became the east terminal of the stagecoach, transferring travelers to the train. As the railroad continued west, Elliott City stepped up its efforts for business, and the Opera House was one answer! An early B & O timetable scheduled an 11¹⁰ from Baltimore arriving at Elliott City at 12⁴⁵ for the matinee. As ~~late~~ ^{early} as 1907 the hall was used for movies.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Article by Celia Holland: "Old Patapsco Hotel Register Found"
Howard County Times 2 October 1972 Silcott City .p.1.
Interview, Andrew Bilbo Oct '72, HSC.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: JEAN S. EWING		DATE
ORGANIZATION MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST		
STREET AND NUMBER: 2325 RIVA ROAD		
CITY OR TOWN: ANNAPOLIS	MARYLAND	STATE

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

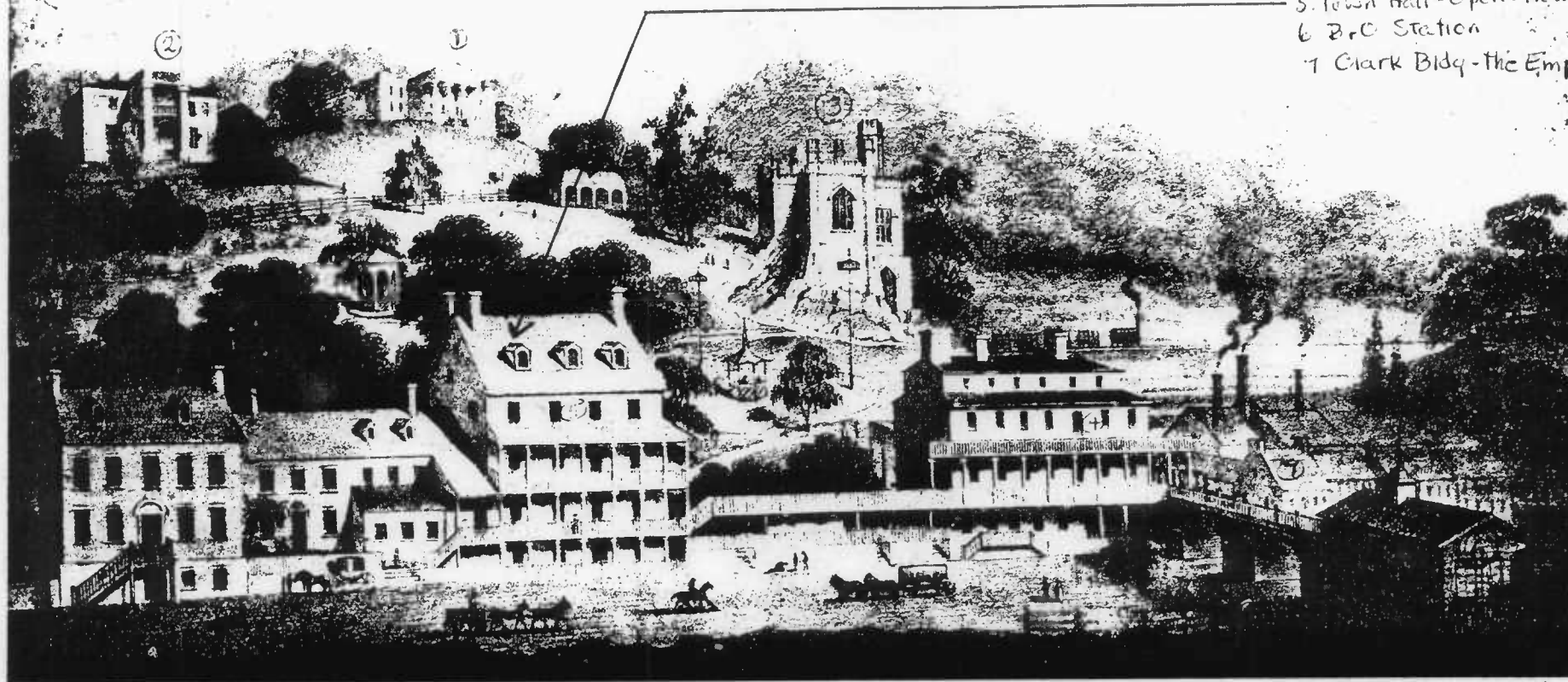
National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

A SKETCH FROM ROCK HILL.

- Key
- 1. Patapsco Female Institute
 - 2. Mt. Ida
 - 3. Angelo Carriage
 - 4. Patapsco Hotel
 - 5. Town Hall - Open House
 - 6. B&O Station
 - 7. Clark Bldg - the Emporium

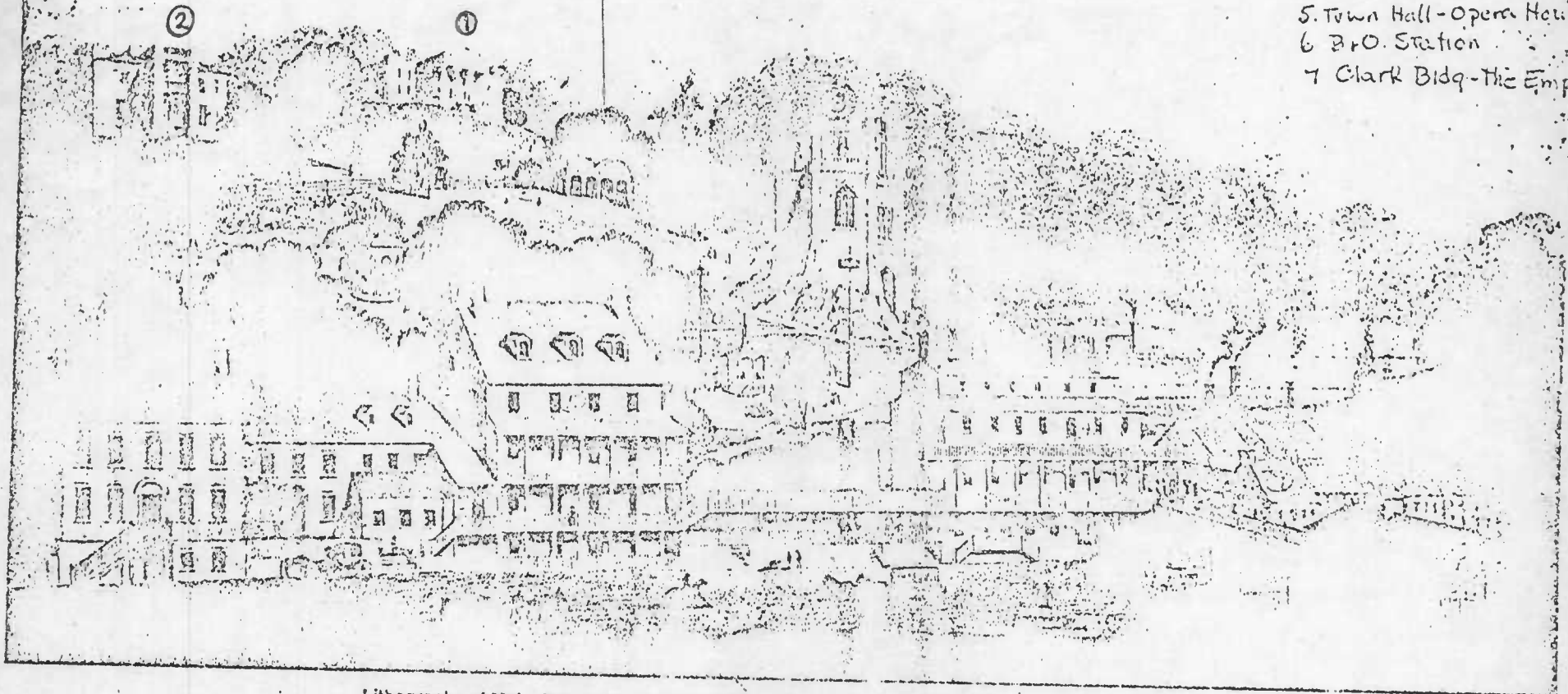


Lithography of Main Street, dated cir. 1832, shows location of yet to be constructed Railroad Hotel.

FROM E. C. JOURNAL

A SKETCH FROM ROCK HILL.

- Key:
1. Putapsue Female Institute
 2. Mt. Ida
 3. Angelo Carriage
 4. Putapsue Hotel
 5. Town Hall - Opera House
 6. B.R.O. Station
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Lithography of Main Street, dated cir. 1832, shows location of yet to be constructed Railroad Hotel.

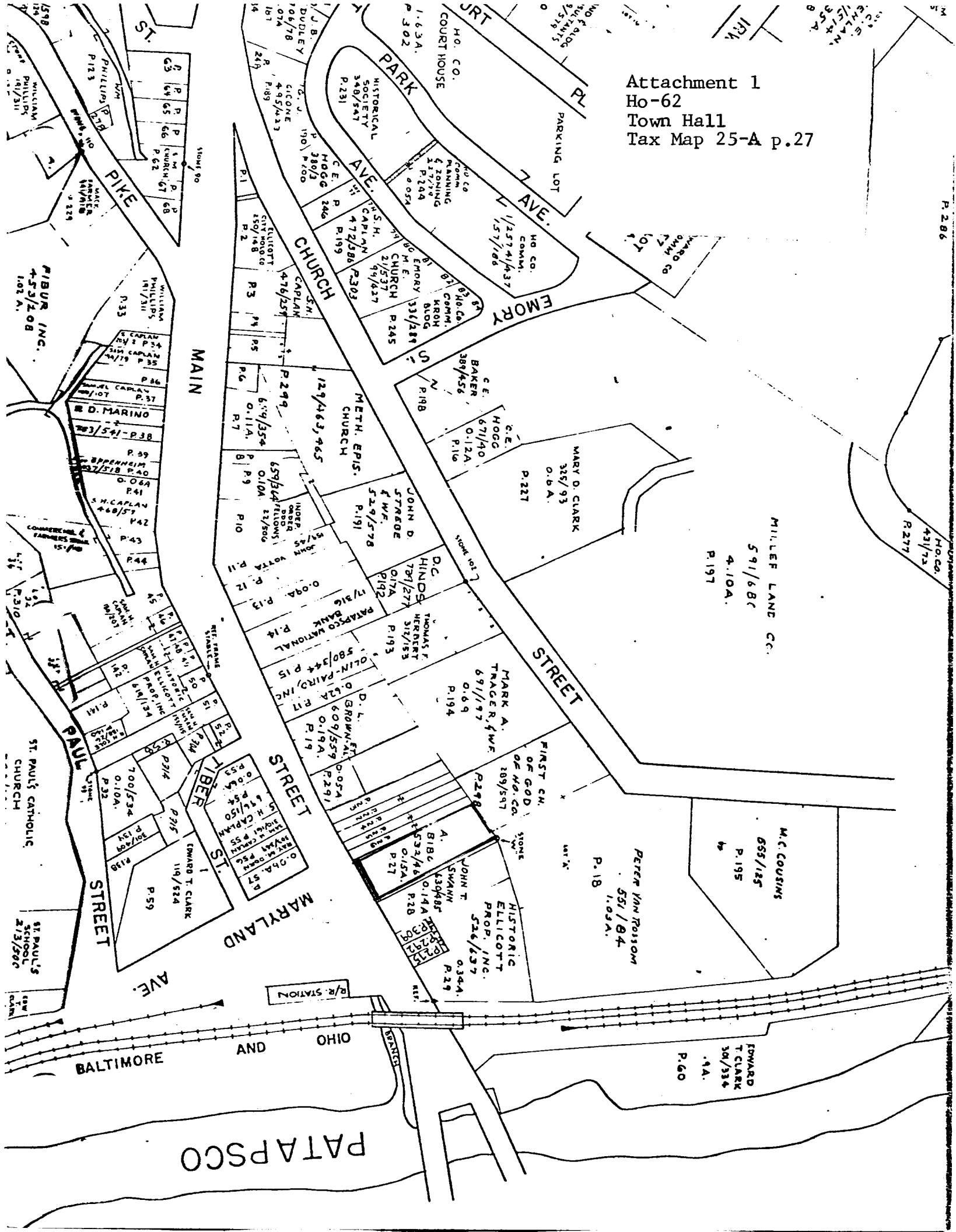
Attachment 2 .

Ho-62

Town Hall/Opera House

Lithography of Main Street, circa 1832

Attachment 1
Ho-62
Town Hall
Tax Map 25-A p.27



HO-62
3 - FEB 1960

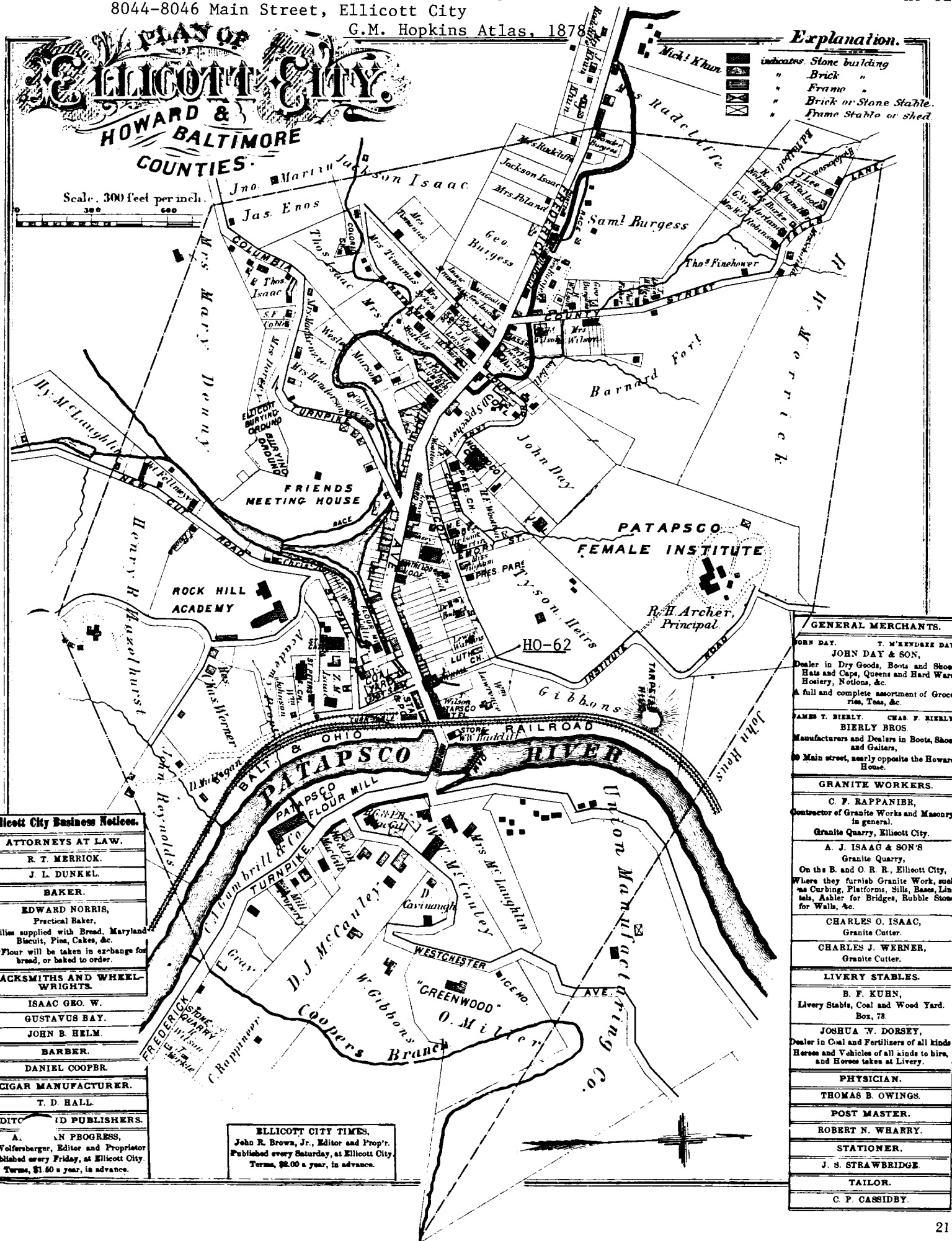
HO-62

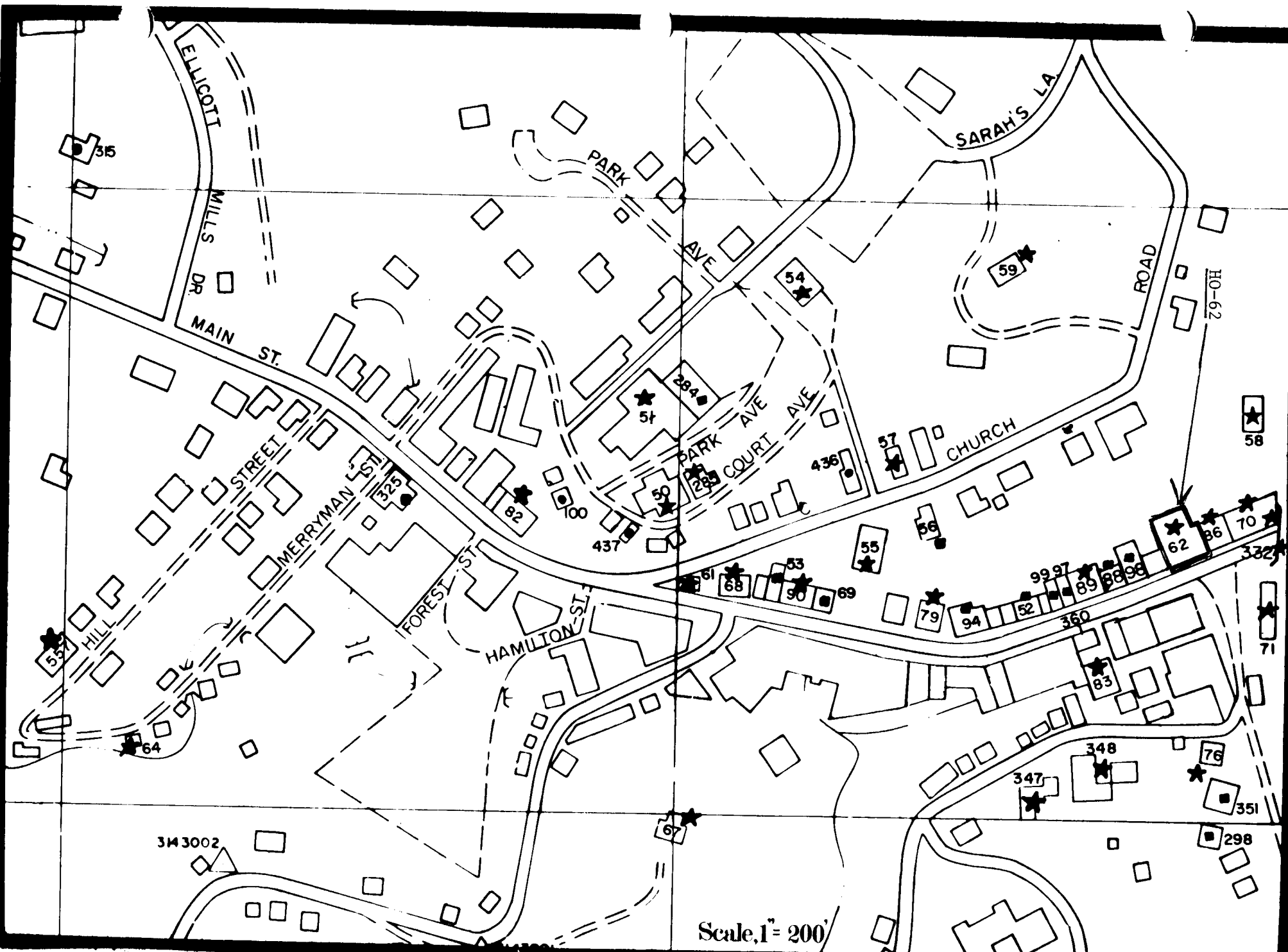
HO-62

The Town Hall (Opera House, Rhodney's Emporium)
8044-8046 Main Street, Ellicott City
Martenet's Map of Howard County, Maryland 1860



G.M. Hopkins Atlas, 1878





The Town Hall (Opera House, Rhodney's Emporium) 8044-46 Main St.

HO-62





HU ~~11/72~~
62

Ellicott City

182. 11/72

Rhodey's Emporium or Operahouse



CLEORA BARNES THOMPSON
PLANNING CONSULTANT
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

Ho-62

Rhodey's Emporium, Opera House
(SOUTH)

MAR. 77 FOR ~~AUGUST~~ 1977